



Asian Turtle Program & Turtle Conservation Centre

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A group of Keel-necked Box Turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*) brought to the Hanoi office where they will be kept temporarily before the ATP can transfer them to the Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC) in Cuc Phuong National Park. Photo by: Kieu Ngoc Bich – ATP/IMC.

Seven endangered Keel-necked box turtle handed into the Asian Turtle Program office in Hanoi

Last Friday, the 26th of May 2017, the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) office in Hanoi, Vietnam, received seven endangered Keel-necked Box Turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*) handed over from one pet owner who bought these animals three months ago. This is the single largest number we have had transferred from a single individual. The office does frequently receive animals from the pet trade when they either become sick or people realise they are much more difficult to keep as pets than they thought.

These turtles ranged in size from yearlings to adults and many of them appear in poor health and are not eating. In recent years, it appears, the keeping of exotic pets in Vietnam is on the increase, with both native and non-native species being kept and many people apparently unaware of the legal protection status of many native species. The Asian Turtle Program strongly encourage pet keepers not to buy turtles as pets and to transfer their animals to rescue and conservation centres as long term captive kept turtles often suffer from serious health issues, can be challenging to keep and in many situations are being kept illegally.

This summer, we are about to release a group of 30 rescued Keel-necked Box Turtles back to the wild. We hope these animals transferred last week can soon also be returned to the wild.

Date: 30th May 2017

Press release by: Hoang Van Ha – ATP/IMC

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A group of Keeled Box Turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*) brought to the Hanoi office where they will be kept temporarily before the ATP can transfer them to the Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC) in Cuc Phuong National Park.
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